

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thoughtful arguments and suggestions presented in the Office Action. Claims 1-35 are pending and under consideration.

The Examiner objected to claims 23-25 and 27-34 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim," but indicated that these objected claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

To accelerate the issuance of claims drawn to the allowable subject matter, Applicants have canceled the previously pending claims 1-35 without prejudice and replaced them with new claims 56-83 which include claims drawn to the expression vectors and cells which the Examiner indicated was allowable, as well as dependent claims which track the dependent claims now cancelled by this Amendment. Applicants submit that the new claims are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter is added by any of the new claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims of equal or broader scope than the previously pending claims, in any future application.

The Examiner also objected to claims 11 and 13 as "containing acronyms without the corresponding definition." Applicants have canceled these claims but new claims 68 and 70 recite the same acronyms. Applicants have provided a "translation" of the acronym, "STAT," but Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify which acronyms in particular Applicants need to "translate." Paragraphs 51-54 of Applicants' specification describes the regulatory proteins recited in claims 68 and 70, and provides references which demonstrate that those skilled in the art refer to the recited proteins using the same nomenclature used by Applicants. Again, Applicants are willing to provide additional information about particular proteins if necessary.

Appl. No. 10/036,091
Amdt. dated 2/10/2005
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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